

# The Graham Tribune

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## HEADLINES:

**A GREENER BACK YARD**

**START YOUR ENGINES**

**AIRSTREAM: "SEE MORE, DO MORE, LIVE MORE"**

**CLASS OF 2010**

### CLASSIFIEDS

Want a "greener" backyard? Homeowner in Alachua, FL has one, and you can too! Just build a portable solar panel trailer, wire it to your house, watch the meter go backwards, and contribute to a greener environment. Start saving money today! Call 352-871-0073 to speak to an experienced installer.

### START YOUR ENGINES

The boys have always been fascinated with NASCAR, so this year for their birthdays, we surprised them and took them to the Daytona 500. It was Valentine's Day, and there were clear blue skies for the race, but it was also a very cool day. We didn't know the seats were metal and hard and COLD until we got there, but we survived. It was neat to see the cars go so fast around the track, and most of the crashes happened right in front of us. We had a great time, but just about froze when the race lingered into the night due to a pot hole in the track that took about an hour and a half to fix. Of course, we had to stay and see the finish, and then we left with many happy and cold memories!

### THE BIG ADVENTURE

This summer we were able to go on an adventure of a lifetime with our family. Dan was graduating from Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California in June, so we decided to go on a month long road trip on the way there. We took our 1971, 23 foot long Airstream, and over half of our trip were able to "boondock" in WalMart parking lots and truck

stops for fuel. Our first destination after 4 long days on the road was Mount Rushmore in SD.

We found that this is about all SD had to offer, as there were 100's of miles of no exits, no gas, only fields. Then we went over to Grand Teton NP and Yellowstone NP in Wyoming. There was still snow on the ground, and the boys threw snowballs at us every chance they got! The day we drove into Yellowstone, it snowed more, and our thermometer in our truck read "ICE". We enjoyed seeing "Old Faithful", and drove up right as it erupted. We also visited Jackson Hole, and got to see what the "real West" is like. After two days, we drove north into Canada and stayed a night at Waterton Lakes NP where we saw a small grizzly while driving down the road. We also saw cougar tracks in the snow at a lake we stopped at. Needless to say we jumped back into the truck pretty fast! Then we headed to Banff NP, where we camped for three nights. We shopped, rode a Gondola to the top of the Rockies for a spectacular view, and visited Banff Springs Hotel. On Sabbath we drove into Jasper NP and were in awe of the beautiful snow capped Rockies and the valley. It was the most beautiful place we've ever seen. After we took an un-planned trip across a ferry to Victoria, BC. We were only able to stay 5 hours, but while there we ate ice cream and chocolate, so it was worth it! That evening we took the ferry into Washington State to head down to Dan's graduation. On the way down we were able to drive Hwy US 1 for a few miles (page 2)



Of all the ages the boys have been, their age right now is one of my favorites. Luke is almost 10 and in 4th grade. Nathan is almost 9, and in 3rd grade. Luke is our sweet sincere, sensitive explorer. Nathan is our witty comedian. They get along some of the time, but really are each other's best friends. Luke continues to love bugs, and loves art. They are really growing. Luke is challenging dad in target practice with their BB guns, as he gets the target almost every time. They both have their special gifts God gave them, and it is so much fun to watch them as they grow.



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## WINTER VIEWS

Dear Friends, I hope all is well for you. Some things I have enjoyed this year: \*Listening to Wrangler/Star and Nut/Fancy on youtube, \*Installing our 1.3 KW Solar Electric system, \*Flying our Dynam Hawk Sky remote control airplane, \*Camping and fishing near Amelia Island with Julie in the morning and weights with my friend Sammy, \*Walking with Luke and Nathan, \*Playing Airsoft with my brother and our families the Grand Canyon, \*Reading the "Desire of Ages" and seeking to surrender self to the Lord, \*Getting my Extra license in Ham Radio, \*Ministry, \*Spending time with family and friends in person, on the phone, or even at times on Facebook. 2010 has been a joy, may 2011 be even better for you and yours. With love, Dan



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and got to see Redwood NP and the Pacific coast, but we decided the Interstate was the best road for us to travel on with the Airstream! In Pasadena, we met up with Dan's brother and family. David also graduated at the same time. While there we celebrated by eating at a restaurant named the "Proud Bird". This restaurant was located by LAX, and we were able to watch the big airplanes come in as we were eating. We are all so happy that Dan and David are finished with their doctorates! After graduation we left California, and went over Hoover Dam and decided to go to Las Vegas for a night to see what it's all about. We ended up staying in a hotel there because it was so much cheaper than camping. A good and kosher time was had by all, except Nathan. For some reason he was scared to death, and to this day he tells everyone he hates Las Vegas! Our next stop was the Grand Canyon, and then we headed back towards FL. On the way back we were able to stop and visit my cousins and family in MO. Then, on Father's Day we decided at the last second to go through KY, and pulled into my parents driveway at 7 AM. The next morning we gave them a great surprise! We praise God for keeping us safe for over 9,500 miles. It was such an amazing experience for all of us!

**COMICS** Nathan was telling Luke and me that he saw his guardian angel one night when he woke up from a bad dream. He said that he told the angel hi, and then it disappeared. Luke asked, "How do you know it wasn't my angel?"

Nathan was listening to his heart and my heart with a stethoscope, then he wanted me to listen to his heart. I listened and told him that his heart sounded like a horse, to which he quickly replied, "Your's sounds like a donkey!"

Dan had just finished a really good sermon and was announcing the closing hymn. The words slipped from his mouth as he announced, "Our closing sin will be..."

**FROM THE EDITOR** As I reflect over all that has happened, I am so thankful that God has brought us safely through another year. Luke and Nathan survived the flu, Dan survived a stomach virus, and Pumpkin survived a life saving surgery. I survived taking care of all of them! It is never dull around here. Before our trip, I found a new "talent" while

installing wood vinyl planks on Airstream. I am pleased with the results, but will be happy not to use that "talent" again! I loved taking over on our road trip fun creating a



the floor of our pleased with the be happy not to again! I loved 1500 pictures and had alot of memory book

Picaboo.com. To keep life from getting dull after our trip, we went to the GC session in Atlanta, visited Sea World with our season's pass, and went to Whitestone Inn near Knoxville for some meetings. While at home I've been busy with 3rd and 4th grade homework, boys' piano practice, trying to manage the house, doing school fundraisers and parties, Shepherdess newsletters and meetings, and of course work. I am still working on a medurg floor 20 hours per week PRN. This year will be a rare Christmas for us at home alone, but our hearts will be thinking of all of you as we celebrate Jesus' birth. If you ever want to visit sunny Florida, please stop and say hi! Until then, we will see you on Facebook! God bless you and your family. Love, Julie

**Portraits of 2010**



check Facebook to see more pictures of our year  
**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**  
 With love, Dan, Julie, Luke, and Nathan